(c) whether the contract was awarded to a private shipyard whose rates were not lowest nor documents complete; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The refit of INS Udaygiri was partially offloaded to Homa Engineering Works, Mumbai, a private firm. The comprehensive package included dry docking and other works like hull renewal, replacement of pipes, refitting of valves etc.

(c) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India, in their Audit Para No. 18 of Report No. 7 of 2003, Union Government (Defence Services), Air Force and Navy have pointed out that this contract was awarded to a private firm whose rates were not lowest and whose documents were incomplete.

(d) An Action taken Note is being processed as per laid down procedure.

Sainik schools in Uttar Pradesh

†800. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Sainik Schools in Uttar Pradesh, district-wise; and

(b) whether Government are considering to open more Sainik Schools in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There is no Sainik School run by Ministry of Defence in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) No, Sir. No proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, in this regard, has been received by the Ministry of Defence.

Crash of an IAF aircraft near Hyderabad

801. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian Air Force aircraft crashed near Hyderabad on the 6th November, 2003;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.